

IN THE CLAIMS

1-67. (Canceled)

68. (Original) A bracket for securing a truss to a base having a generally planar upper surface to thereby provide resistance to uplifting forces exerted on the truss surface, said bracket comprising a pair of substantially perpendicular attachment faces interconnected by a pair of substantially perpendicular chord engaging faces, one of said attachment faces being adapted to overlie a substantially vertical web attachment face of a truss chord member for attachment thereto, the other of said attachment faces being adapted to overlie the generally planar upper surface of said base for attachment thereto.

69. (Original) A bracket for mutually securing a first truss and a second truss abutting said first truss, said bracket comprising:

a first back plate adapted to overlie the leg of a portion of a chord member of a first truss adjacent an abutting truss;

a second back plate extending laterally from the abutting truss side of the first back plate, said second back plate being adapted to overlie the leg of a portion of a chord member of said abutting truss adjacent said first truss;

a first attachment portion extending from the upper edge of said first back plate, said first attachment portion having a minor portion extending outward from said first back plate and a major portion substantially parallel to said first back plate, said major portion being adapted to overlie a portion of a web member of said first truss for attachment thereto; and

a second attachment portion extending from the upper edge of said second back plate, said second attachment portion having a minor portion extending outward from said second back plate and a major portion substantially parallel to said second back plate, said major portion being adapted to overlies a portion of a web member of said abutting truss for attachment thereto.

70. (Original) The bracket of claim 69 wherein said second back plate is substantially perpendicular to said first back plate.

71. (Original) The bracket of claim 69 wherein said second back plate extends at an oblique angle from said first back plate.

72. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 69 wherein at least one of said back plates includes a plurality of apertures.

73. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 69 wherein at least one of said major portions includes a plurality of apertures.

74. (Previously Presented) A method of mutually securing a first truss and a second truss abutting said first truss, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a bracket comprising a first and a second back plate and a first and a second attachment portion, said second back plate extending laterally from the abutting truss side of the first back plate, said first attachment portion extending from the upper edge of said first back plate, said first attachment portion having a minor portion extending outward from said first back plate and a major portion substantially parallel to said first back plate, said second attachment portion extending from the upper edge of said second back plate, said second attachment portion having a minor portion extending

outward from said second back plate and a major portion substantially parallel to said second back plate;

securing the first back plate to the leg of a portion of a chord member of the first truss adjacent an abutting truss;

securing the second back plate to the leg of a portion of a chord member of said abutting truss adjacent said first truss.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 74, further comprising securing a first portion of a web member to one of said major portions.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 75, further comprising securing a second portion of said web member to a leg of a portion of a chord member of one of said first and second trusses.

77. (Previously Presented) A bracket for securing a truss to the generally planar upper surface of a wall, said bracket comprising a pair of substantially perpendicular attachment faces interconnected by a pair of substantially perpendicular chord engaging faces, one of said attachment faces being adapted to overlie a web attachment face of a truss chord member for attachment thereto, the other of said attachment faces being adapted to overlie a generally planar upper surface of a wall for attachment thereto, the substantially perpendicular chord engaging faces being adapted to overlie substantially perpendicular surfaces of the truss chord member.

78. (Previously Presented) A truss system comprising:
a wall having a generally planar upper surface;

a plurality of trusses positioned transverse to said wall at spaced intervals along the length of said wall, each of said trusses comprising a lower chord member having a base portion supported by said generally planar upper surface of said wall and a pair of web attachment faces extending from said base portion; and

a plurality of brackets, each of said trusses being secured to said wall by one or more of said brackets, said brackets comprising:

a first attachment face attached to a web attachment face of one of said lower truss chord members;

a second attachment face attached to said generally planar upper surface of said wall; and

a pair of substantially perpendicular chord engagement faces interconnecting said first and second attachment faces, said chord engagement faces overlying substantially perpendicular faces of said base portion of said lower truss chord member.

79. (Previously Presented) The truss system of Claim 78 wherein each of said attachment faces forms one or more aperture.

80. (Previously Presented) A method of securing a truss having a lower truss chord member to a generally planar surface, said method comprising steps of:

providing a bracket comprising a pair of substantially perpendicular attachment faces interconnected by a pair of substantially perpendicular chord engaging faces;

engaging a base portion of the truss chord member with the substantially perpendicular chord engaging faces;

securing one of said attachment faces to a web attachment face of the truss chord member; and
securing the other of said attachment faces to the generally planar surface.

81. (New) A bracket for securing a truss chord member to the upper surface of a base, wherein the truss chord member includes a web attachment face substantially vertical to the upper surface, a lateral face extending substantially perpendicularly from a longitudinal edge of the web attachment face, and an outer face extending substantially perpendicularly from a longitudinal edge of the lateral face and substantially parallel to the web attachment face, the bracket comprising:

- a first attachment face including a first interior edge;
- a second attachment face substantially perpendicular to the first attachment face, the second attachment face including a second interior edge;
- a first chord-engaging face extending substantially perpendicularly from the first interior edge; and
- a second chord-engaging face extending substantially perpendicularly from the second interior edge and intersecting the first chord-engaging face, wherein the first and second chord-engaging faces form a recess to receive the lateral and outer faces of the truss chord member.